

# News from the Illinois Commerce Commission

Voice: Springfield. 217.782.5793 Chicago. 312.814.2850 FAX 217.524.0674 BBS 217.782.9233 <http://www.icc.illinois.gov>  
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Contact: Brian Sterling  
Beth Bosch

## ICC Approves Voluntary Plan to Phase-in ComEd Rate Hikes

In an effort to help soften the impact of next month's electricity rate hikes, the Illinois Commerce Commission today approved a rate stabilization program for ComEd's Illinois customers.

"What the Commission has done today will allow customers the opportunity to choose a 'soft landing' regarding the upcoming rate increases," said ICC Chairman Charles Box. "This low-interest option also will provide some much-needed funding for low-income customers, seniors, and other innovative conservation and renewable energy programs."

Enrollment in the program will allow ComEd's residential customers the option to reduce their increase to a maximum of 10 percent for each of the next three years (2007-2009) and defer the additional amount to a three-year repayment period beginning in 2010.

All of ComEd's residential customers are eligible to participate in the program.

The voluntary "Residential Rate Stabilization" program offers a below-market interest rate of 3.25 percent on the amounts deferred.

Commissioners Lula Ford and Erin O'Connell-Diaz, with unanimous support from the Commission, modified ComEd's proposed phase-in program by cutting in half, from 6.5 to 3.25 percent, the carrying charges for the deferred balances, thereby making it an attractive program for many customers. Additionally, the Commission strongly encouraged ComEd to contribute \$30 million over the next three years to low-income assistance and senior programs as well as energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. As this is a voluntary contribution, the Commission noted that it does not expect the company to seek to recover any portion of these contributions through future rates.

Customers can enroll in the program until Aug. 22, 2007. Customers will receive more information in bill inserts in the coming months.

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